

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

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E.O.: 11652 N/A

TAGS: ICAO, ETRN

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL TO REORGANIZE ICAO COUNCIL

REF: PARIS 4525

1. CIRCULAR INSTRUCTION SENT SEPTTEL RESPONDS TO MOST
POINTS RAISED REFTTEL. EMBASSY MAY DRAW ALSO ON FOLLOWING
IN RESPONSE TO OTHER POINTS RAISED.

2. PROBLEM IN ICAO IS SLIGHTLY ANALOGOUS, AS COPIN
SUGGESTS, TO RECENT EXPERIENCE WITH IMCO COUNCIL, IN THAT
APPROPRIATE OUTCOME ARRIVED AT PROMPTLY AND WITH
MINIMUM CONTROVERSY BEST SERVES OUR INTERESTS. IMPORTANT
DIFFERENCE, HOWEVER, IS THAT SOUND CASE COULD BE MADE FOR
EXPANSION OF IMCO COUNCIL, WHEREAS ICAO COUNCIL BECAME
EFFECTIVELY EXPANDED ONLY THIS YEAR AND THERE IS NO CASE
FOR FURTHER EXPANSION. PROBLEM IS THAT PROPOSAL BEFORE
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ICAO IS ADDRESSED SOLELY TO QUESTION OF ELECTIONS WITHIN

CATEGORIES UNDER PRESENT COUNCIL SIZE, DENYING US OPPORTUNITY WE HAD IN IMCO WORKING GROUP FEBRUARY 4-8 WHERE CONSENSUS WAS FOUND FOR SETTING ASIDE THIS ISSUE IN TRADE-OFF EXPANDING IMCO COUNCIL.

3. CONCEIVABLY, AS COPIN SPECULATED, SENEGAL MAY CITE PROPOSALS AT IMCO WORKING GROUP AS PRECEDENT FOR MODIFICATION OF ICAO COUNCIL. WE THINK NOT, HOWEVER, BECAUSE IN FACT THE SORT OF COUNCIL RESTRUCTURING OF CATEGORIES SENEGAL PROPOSES WAS DISCARDED IN END BY CONSENSUS AT IMCO WORKING GROUP. THEREFORE, ARGUMENT COULD BE TURNED AGAINST SENEGAL.

4. WE UNDERSTAND BELGIAN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE HAS FLOATED IDEA OF COUNTERING SENEGALESE INITIATIVE WITH PROPOSAL TO EXPAND SIZE OF COUNCIL TO 36. WE DO NOT THINK SUCH COUNTER MOVE WOULD BE WISE, AND DO NOT FEEL THAT STATUS OF SENEGALESE PROPOSAL MERITS SUCH BROAD RESPONSE CARRYING SUCH FAR-REACHING IMPLICATIONS FOR THE STRUCTURE AND VITALITY OF THE ORGANIZATION. (AS COUNCIL SITS IN PERMANENT SESSION, IT WOULD BE UNDESIRABLE AND PROBABLY IMPRACTICABLE TO HAVE BODY OF THIS SIZE, AND SHIFT IN COMPOSITION OF COUNCIL LIKELY TO OCCUR FROM SUCH EXPANSION WOULD PLACE FURTHER BURDEN ON ALREADY STRAINED CAPACITY OF COUNCIL TO PERFORM ITS EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS IN EFFICIENT AND PRODUCTIVE MANNER.) BELGIAN SOUNDINGS ALONG THIS LINE CONCERN US, AND WE ARE EXPRESSING OUR CONCERN IN BRUSSELS. CASEY

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